

June 9, 1999

Bernadette M. Sonefeld

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Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Sirs,

The FDA instituted a ban on live organ, cell and tissue transplants from nonhuman primates because they expose the public to significant risk of infectious disease. But the FDA guidelines failed to address the dangers posed by other species. Genetically altered pigs are now being considered as the primary source for Xenotransplants, despite the existence of over 25 diseases in pigs that can infect humans.

There are safer and more cost-effective alternatives to xenotransplantation which are not being explored by regulatory authorities, such as preventative medicine programs to reduce the need for transplants, also legislation to help increase the pool of human organs, as many European countries have done.

Xenograft recipients would require life-long monitoring for signs of infection. A multi-million dollar registry would be required, to house animal and human tissue for at least 50 years, at taxpayer expense. And what about the danger of a zoonotic virus spreading to the human population?

Sincerely,

Bernadette M. Sonefeld

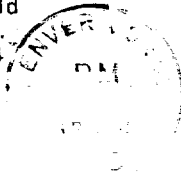
**I have chosen to send this letter to you from a letter-writing service. I chose it because it represents my views and opinions perfectly. It is, however, signed by me as an individual, and I hope you will consider it as such.** - Bernadette M. Sonefeld

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